

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, the 24th August 1961.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

South Indian handloom sarongs

* 254 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the recent restriction imposed by the Ceylon Government on the import of South Indian handloom sarongs into Ceylon; and

(*b*) if so, the action, if any, taken or proposed to be taken this regard?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The Government of India were requested to move the Ceylon Government to relax the conditions imposed by them on the import of Indian Handloom sarongs into that country. They have recently informed this Government that the Ceylon Government have awarded quotas for import of sarongs for 1961 to the extent of 50 per cent of the imports for one year. The Government of India have also intimated that bilateral negotiations with the Ceylon Government are still under way.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Sir, as far as import into Ceylon is concerned, they discriminate more against South Indian handloom sarongs. Will the Government at least press on the Government of India to see that something is done in future, not to discriminate between other textiles and handloom textiles?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: When we are negotiating with another country, it is not proper to say that they discriminate and all that. It is the sovereign right of a country to determine what goods they should import. It is a matter for negotiation, and negotiations are going on.

State Transport Department

* 255 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN (on behalf of Sri L. S. KARAYALAR): Will the Hon. the Miniser for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether, and if so, when the post of Public Relations Officer in the Madras State Transport Department was sanctioned;